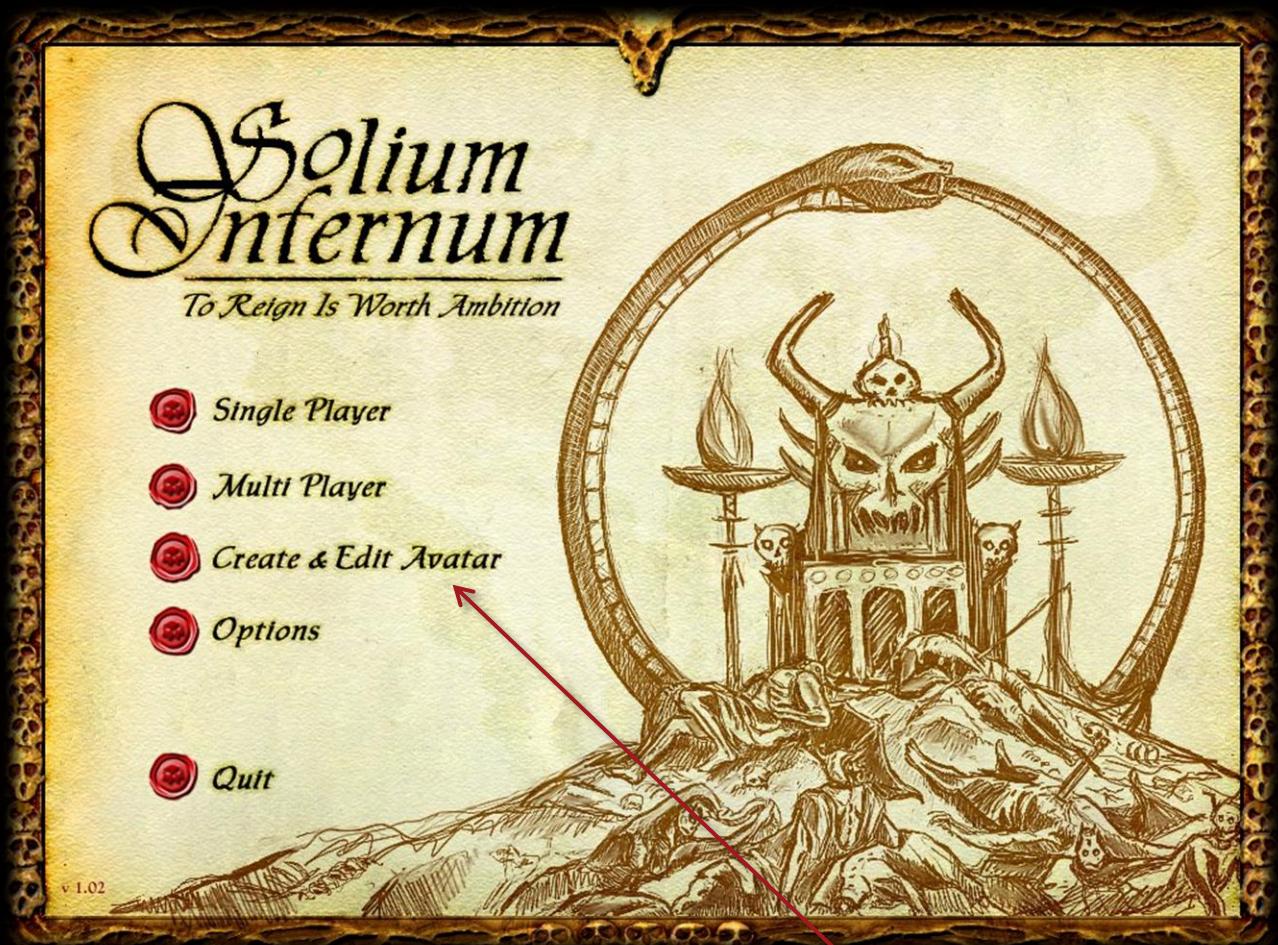


Ah. You are here.

Tutorial #2 for Solium Infernum

The 'disciple' of Fudge.

Forgive my manners; would you care for a taste?



This is the last piece of Fudge.
The piece with the mouth.

It spoke your name, rather
unhappily, in its final moments.

By way of spiting him, I
will ask you, his disgraced
general, to create me.

As I stepped through his ruined Stronghold, injecting my eggs into what uncharred flesh I could find..

..I happened across documents that mentioned your existence.

I inferred that he had placed you in charge of his destiny.



Rather than cripple your vocal chords with my true name, might I suggest that you name me Beatrice.

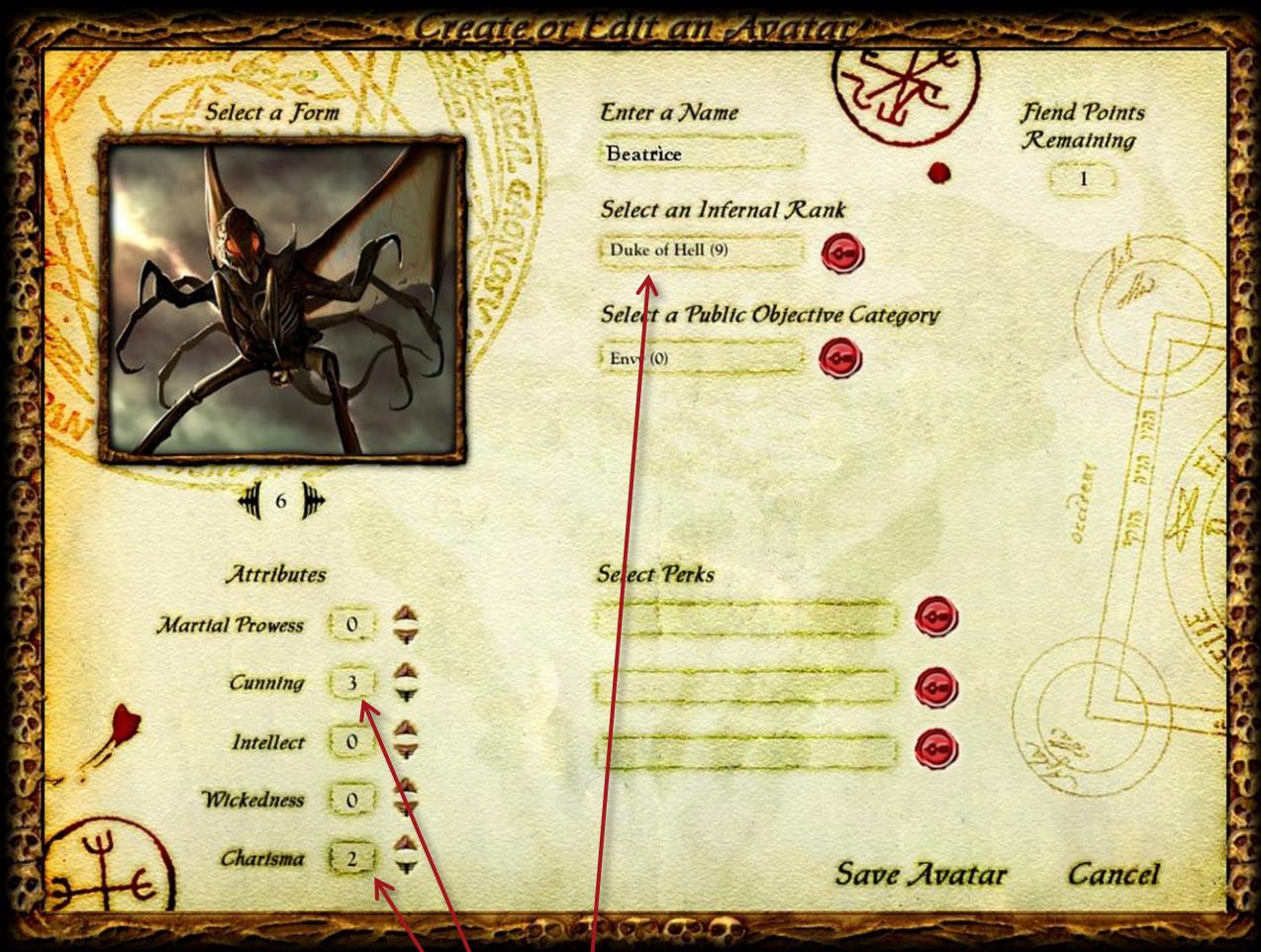
You may, of course, use your own imagination.

It will no doubt prompt you to use apostrophes.

I noted that in his documents Fudge simply commanded you to create him in his own particular way.

Not a good plan, was that?

Consider your answer while I dip my pincers in a poultice made from his hypothalamus.



I myself am a Duke, the second-highest Rank in the Inferno.

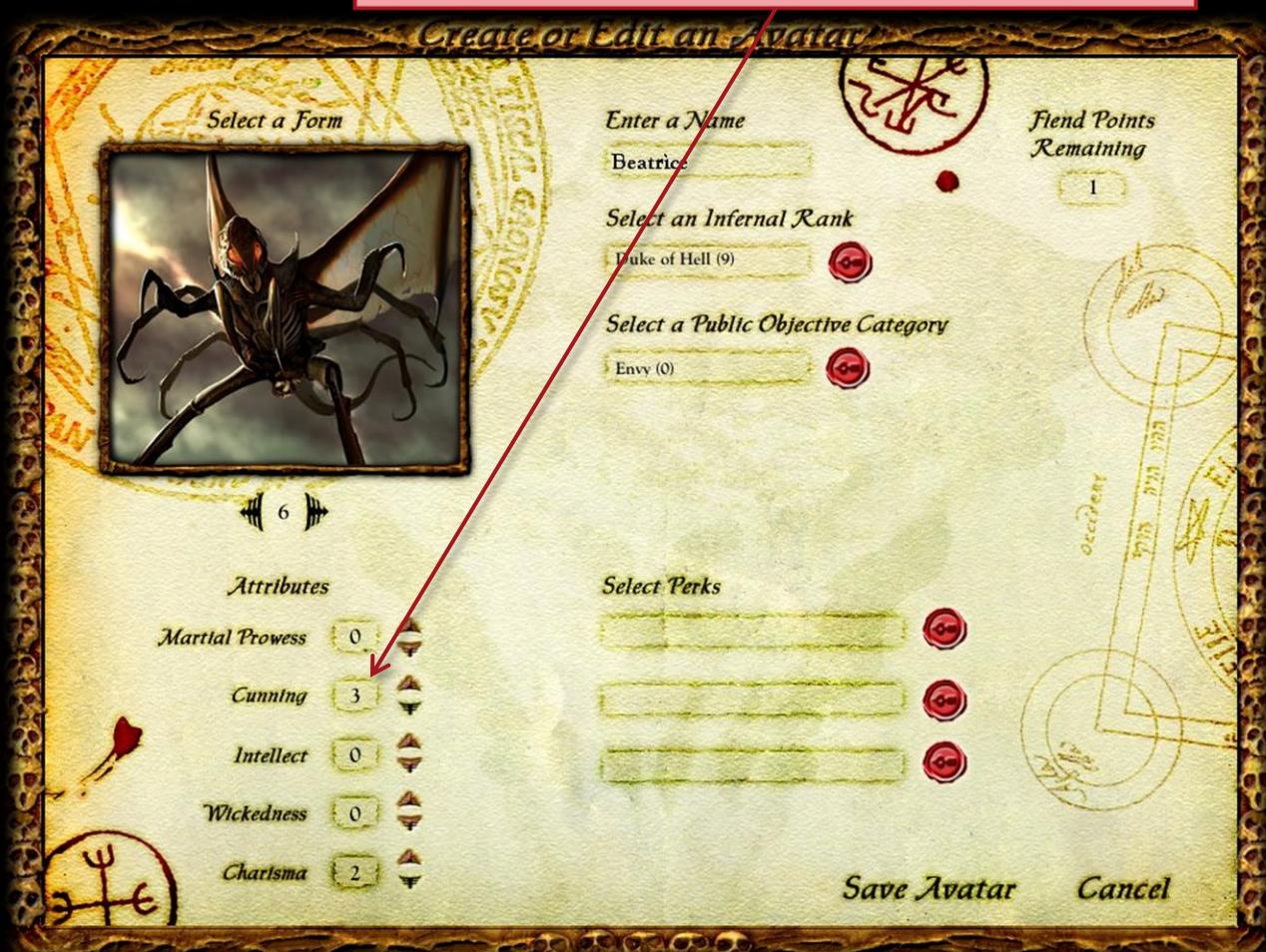
To achieve this Rank, I have made certain sacrifices.

Had I not devoted so much time to politics, I might have already made more progress in my Attributes.

I am by nature a schemer.

I prefer to hold back at first, to not appear as a major threat to my foes.

With my Cunning at 3, I can manipulate enemy Legions, and steal their Artifacts.



I tend to use only my starting Legion in the opening, and purchase items that boost my Attributes.

I wait for my rivals to equip Artifacts, and then I steal them.

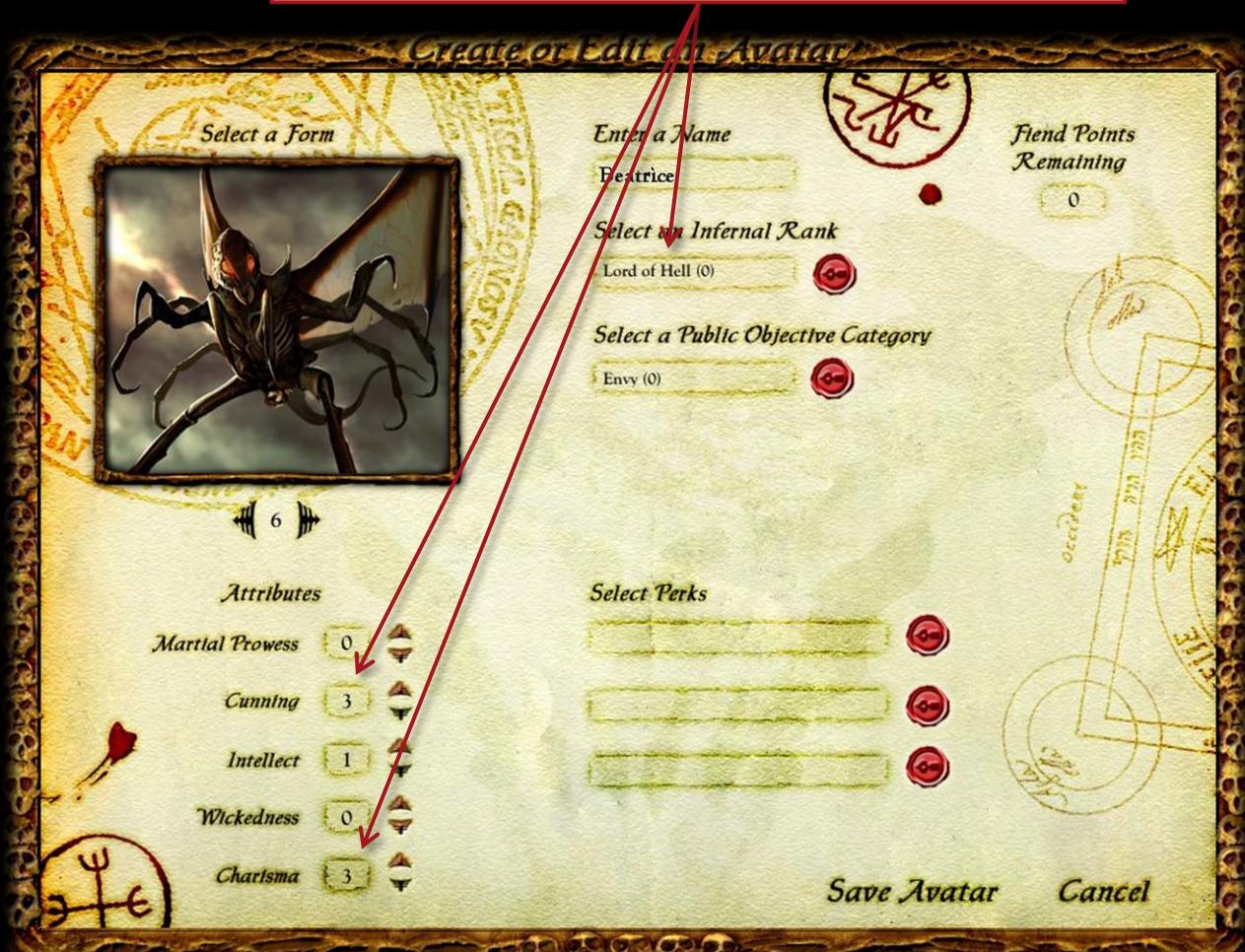
Some say I lack honor.

I say they underestimate the truth!

Do not simply parrot my decisions.

Give me what flavor you wish.

Perhaps you would like to reduce your Rank in order to excel at two different Attributes.



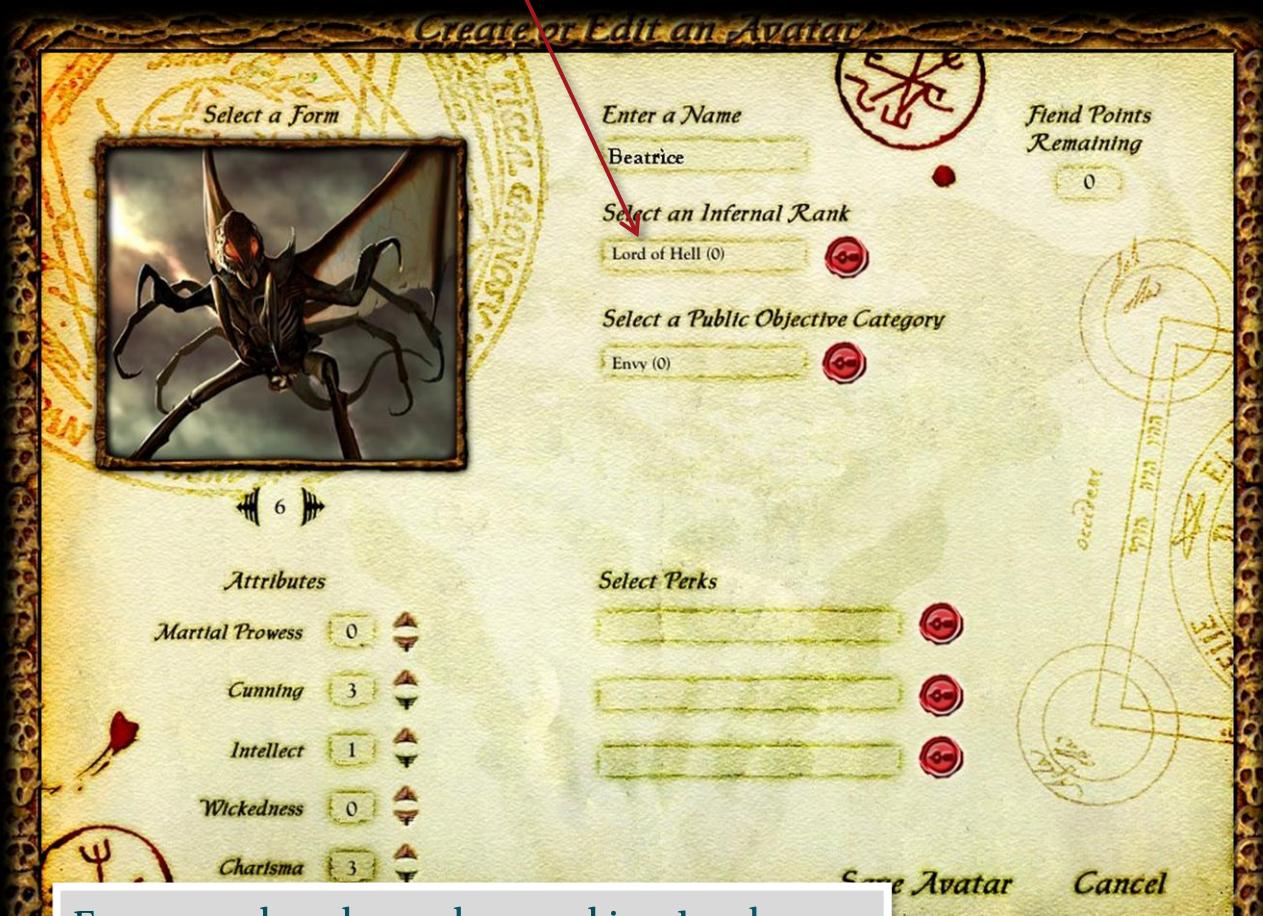
A Wicked Archfiend damages and destroys the tribute, items, or even Legions of those in Vendetta with her.

A Charismatic Archfiend enjoys substantially better tribute than her enemies.

Beware of choosing a low Rank.

Many costs depend on a comparison between the Ranks of opposing Archfiends.

Most diplomatic actions bear these costs.



For example, when a low-ranking Lord makes a Demand of a high-ranking Prince..

..the Conclave punishes the affrontery by imposing an extra Prestige penalty on the arrogant Lord.

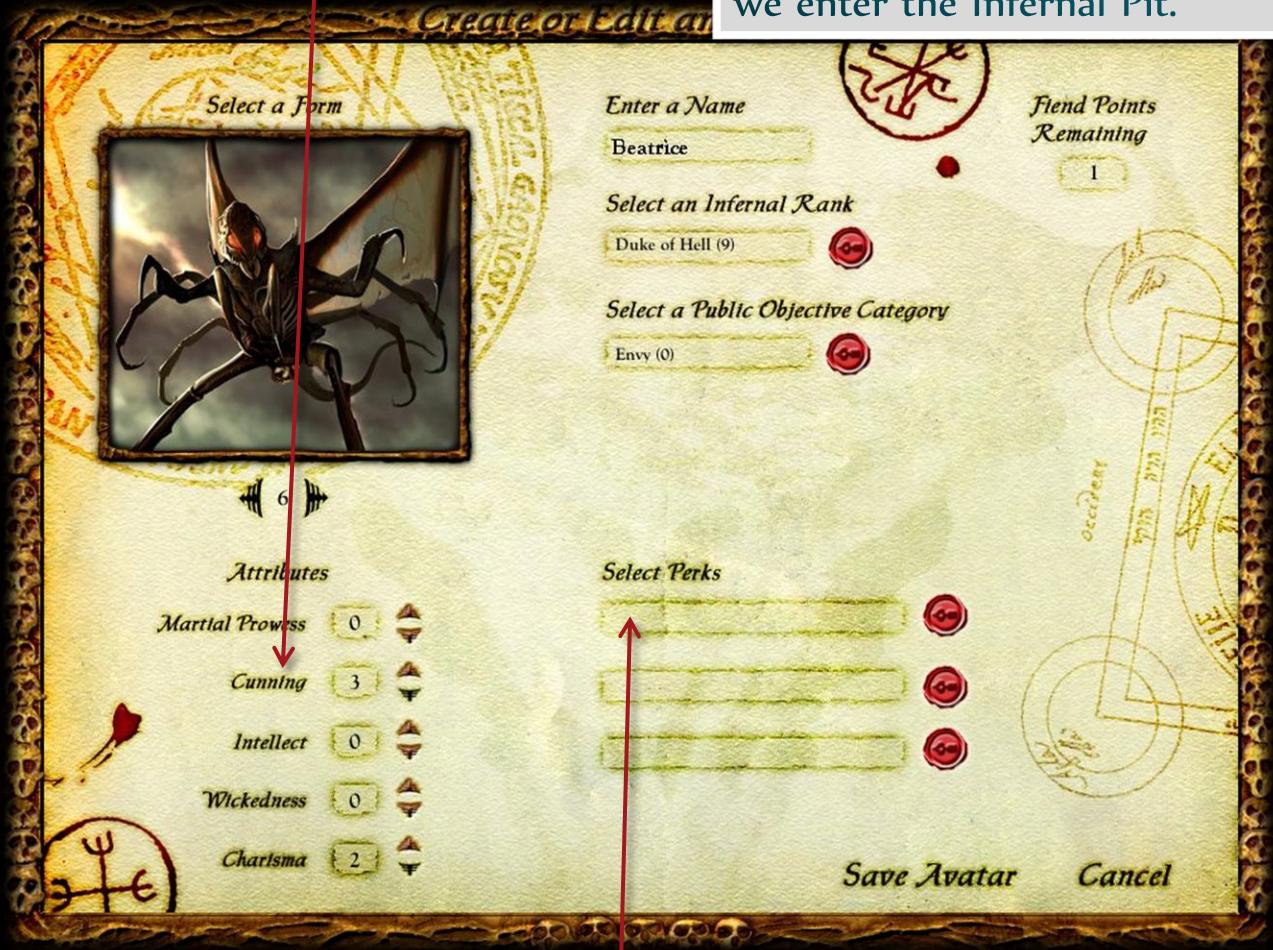
Further, the Demands that can be made on a higher-ranking Archfield are more limited.

Each Attribute is associated with a Discipline.

The Discipline of Deceit, for example, is paired with the Attribute of Cunning.

Certain items may increase the power of a Discipline alone.

We will see such items when we enter the Infernal Pit.



If you wish to spend Points on a Perk, then by all means, do so.

Perhaps you will choose the Perk that lets you sniff bicycle seats down at the public library.

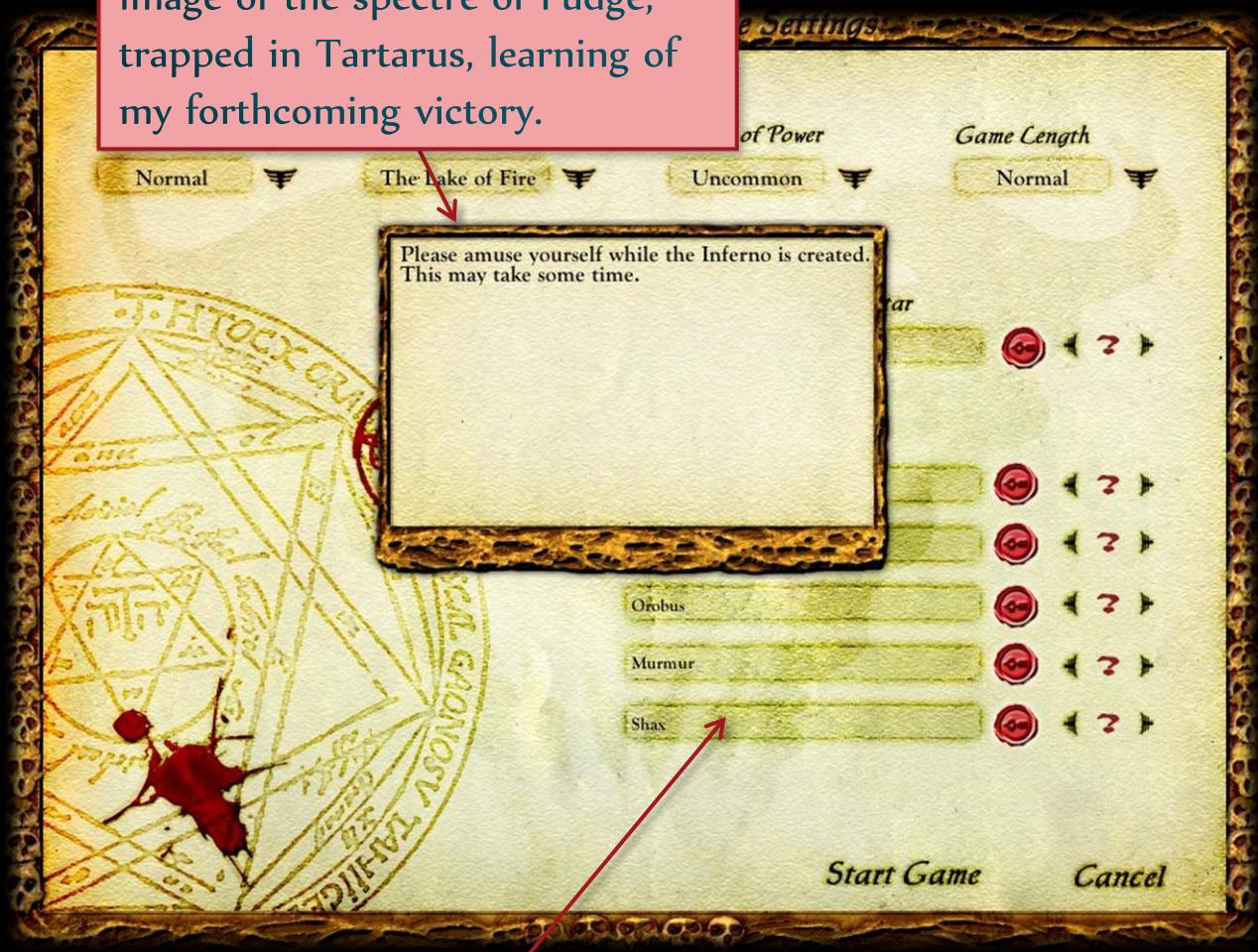
I myself do not enjoy an olfactory sense.

I am created!

Risen from the silicon, as it were.

I have chosen my original design, as a Duke with 3 Cunning and 2 Charisma.

I am amusing myself with the image of the spectre of Fudge, trapped in Tartarus, learning of my forthcoming victory.



The Conclave has matched me with Azazel, Belial, Orobus, Murmur, and Shax.

Shax, no doubt, chose to be a lowly Lord so he could emphasize Buggery.

Scan the
Infernal Pit.

Perhaps we will find a nearby Archfiend who
was foolish enough to choose a low Rank.

Ah! Belial is my nearest neighbor.



Look at the pathetic weakness of his
starting Legion. This bodes well.

His Stronghold has even
worse statistics.

But what are his strengths?

Choose your own nearby target, and open the Diplomacy document.

I intend to assign Belial as my biggest Threat.

This reduces the cost of all diplomatic efforts waged against him.

Click the rune that allows us to adjust the Threat level of our foes.



And observe that Belial is two spots clockwise from me.

Because the turn order depends on who is made Regent, only 2 in 6 turns will Belial's order be processed before mine. This is quite..

Oh.

I am glad that I lack the sense of smell.

Your impetuous evacuation betrays your ability in mathematics.

It is no wonder that Fudge's teats now line as playthings the barrow in which my young writhe.

No matter. I will strive in the future for simplicity.



I have inscribed Belial's name as the highest Threat.

All Rituals I attempt against him will now incur the minimum possible tribute cost.

Visit the Bazaar.

Do not simply buy what you can afford.

Rather, scan the offerings for items or Praetors that can particularly benefit you.

Aim for those items that benefit your specific strategy.



Here is a Relic, for example, that safeguards all attributes.

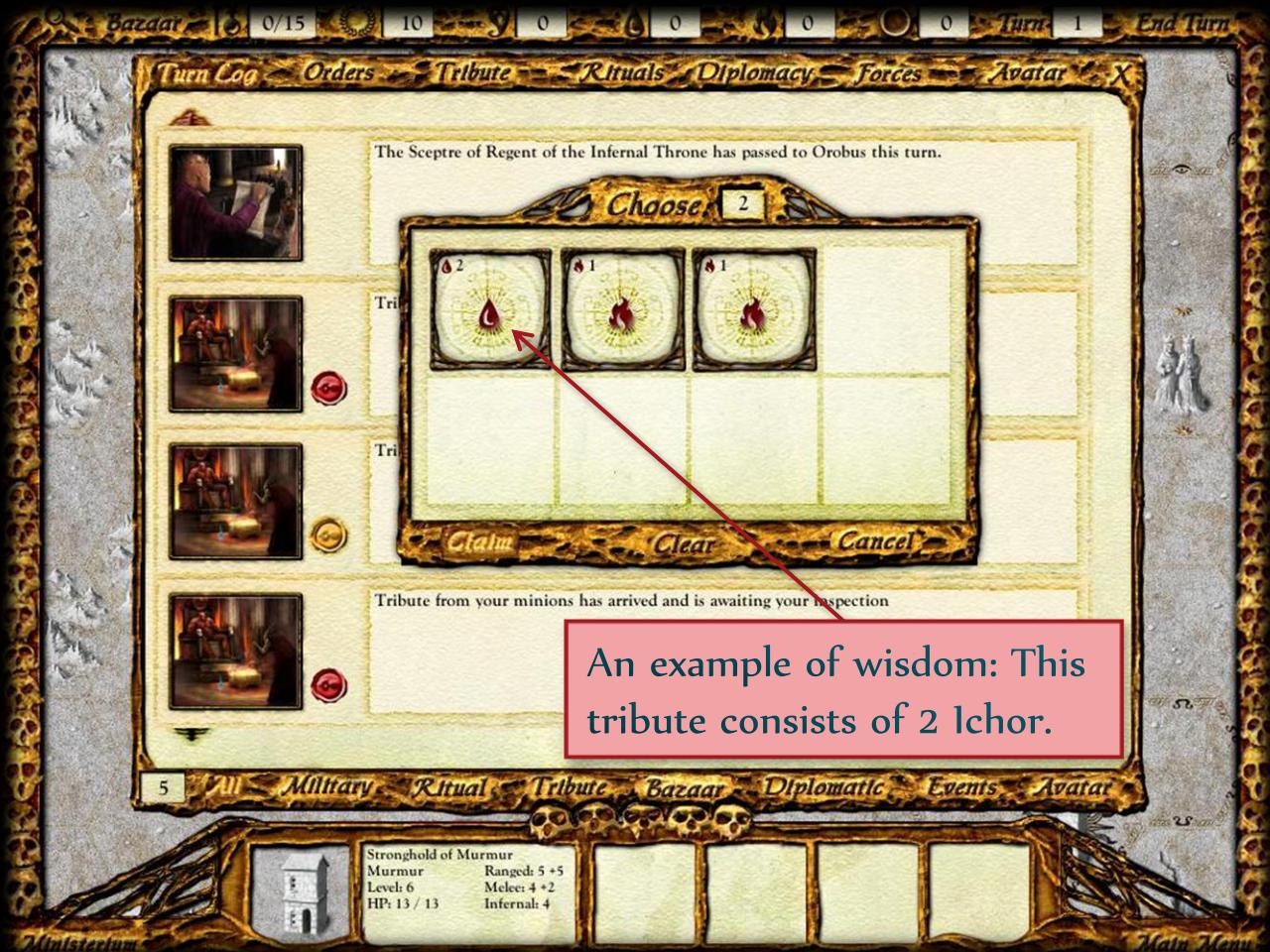
Certain Manuscripts reduce the level of all enemy attributes, and should one of these fall into the wrong hands, I would suffer.

This Relic would prevent this affrontery.

There is only *one copy* of each Relic, Artifact, Praetor, and Legion!

But a wise Archfiend is not distracted by baubles and frippery.

In Hell, the distance separating frippery from wisdom fits comfortably in the gap between your intellect and mine.



When minions provide tribute, do not mindlessly choose the tribute that arrives in the largest quantity.

Stop weeping. 'Quantity' means numbers.

Listen. How many claws would be required to poke out your eyes? That is the number 2.

And if I wished to mount you on a pike as a warning to children to pay attention during Arithmetic?

That would require 1 pike, because you have 1 anus.

Well, until I sew yours shut.



Each of these tribute cards provides 1 Hellfire.

Having enumerated your eyes and anus, you object to my suggestion that we select both Hellfire cards.

And now, darling, you appear to be objecting to my foreleg piercing to the bone of your thigh!

Hush now.

Listen: this item doubles damage to Places of Power, and it requires Hellfire.



Further, my starting legion has a very high Melee rating, and this Artifact adds 5 to Melee.

Since this item is so useful to me, I forego the 2 Ichor card and choose both 1 Hellfire cards.

With the Wheel of the Broken, I will have an advantage in the early conflict when I attack Places of Power.

All Places of Power generate prestige, but a rare few provide an additional Perk.



My interest in owning this Place of Power manifests itself in tiny squirts of gastric acid from my nipple complex.

Run your fingers along them and see!

Since we are on the topic of me, let's turn our attention to improving my personal abilities.

Select Avatar to view my current status.

Here we see the pairings of Disciplines with Attributes.



One uses tribute to raise an Attribute, while one uses items to raise a Discipline.

Select Powers to see the various methods by which I will flood the mouths of my enemies with bile.

At level IV of Deceit..

Ah. 'IV' is a Roman.. number.

It means 4.

Yes, the Romans responsible for this are being punished in the Antechamber of Circle 6. I believe today's theme is 'Intestines'.



Another level in Deceit will grant me another Order Slot each turn, and the ability to steal tribute.

To increase Deceit, I may increase Cunning.

This requires Souls and Darkness – something else to bear in mind while choosing tribute cards.

Your pooling liquids belie your mental fatigue.

...

Let us quietly stand before the throne
upon which I will nestle my thorax.



If you fail me, my last act will be to suction my birthing canal
to your mouth and fill you with seed.

I have half a mind to do this nonetheless.

But, go.

Ha! Not so fast.

Were you listening? Take my quiz.

For each question you answer incorrectly, I claim an inch of colon.

Q. What will become of me if I fail?

- a. Beatrice will inject me with her young.
- b. Hair shirts will become the only option on 'Casual Fridays'.
- c. No more drop of water every thousand thousand years.
- d. Select your pistol, and then, select your Avatar.

Q. To increase _____, one needs _____.

- a. an attribute / to spend tribute
- b. the agony / only ask
- c. mobility in one's limbs / limbs
- d. one's chance of escape / the Catholics to have been correct

Q. Rank : diplomacy :: _____.

- a. threat level : tribute
- b. skin : flaying
- c. Fudge : snack tray
- d. pike : anus



Written by: Dave Perkins

Based on the game
Solium Infernum
by Vic Davis,
published by Cryptic Comet

Q. Alice is being fed Bob's intestines, and Bob is submerged in a cauldron filled with the melted fat of Carl. Zazziel, who is not assigned to Alice, is feeding Doug's thigh bone into the fire, while the demon assigned to Bob is using Doug's skin for anthropodermic bibliopegy. If one of Xyxsas or Yxis is plunging its beak into either Alice or Carl, then which of the following is true?

- a. Zazziel is assigned to Carl
- b. Xyxsas is assigned to Alice
- c. Bob should have stayed a Buddhist
- d. You found the 'Easter egg' question. Easter! Ha, ha!

